

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An inferred relation weighting process for determining ~~the a~~ strength of an inferred relation between a first Internet object and a second Internet object, ~~which where the first and second Internet objects~~ are not directly linked, comprising a first link weighting process for determining ~~the a~~ first strength of ~~at least~~ a first link between ~~said the first non-directly linked~~ Internet object and a common object; a second link weighting process for determining ~~the a~~ second strength of ~~at least~~ a second link between ~~said the second non-directly linked~~ Internet object and ~~said the~~ common object; and an inferred relation weight calculation process for calculating the strength of ~~said the~~ inferred relation based on the first strength and the second strength; ~~of said at least a first link and said at least a second link~~ wherein the first Internet object comprises a query for retrieving a document and the second Internet object comprises a document.

2. (Currently Amended) The inferred relation weighting process of claim 1, wherein ~~said the~~ common object comprises a plurality of ~~discrete~~ Internet objects, ~~the plurality of Internet objects being interconnected via discrete links with a discrete link, and said the~~ plurality of

~~discrete Internet objects and links connect said being connected to the first and second links[[],]];~~

and

wherein said the inferred relation weighting process further comprises:

an intermediate link weighting process for determining ~~the a~~ strength of each said discrete link, wherein the strength of said the inferred relation is based also on ~~a the~~ strength of each said discrete link ~~and the strength of said at least a first link and said at least a second link.~~ (original)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The inferred relation weighting process of claim 1, wherein ~~said the~~ common object includes comprises at least one Internet document.

5. (Currently Amended) The inferred relation weighting process of claim 2, further comprising:

a link limitation process for specifying a link limit concerning ~~the a~~ maximum number of links used to determine the inferred relation allowed to connect said first and second non directly linked Internet objects.

6. (Currently Amended) The inferred relation weighting process of claim 2, further comprising:

an incoming link analysis process for determining ~~the a~~ number of objects linked to each ~~of said plurality of Internet object objects~~, wherein ~~the an~~ incoming link value of ~~each said a~~ target Internet object is ~~directly~~ proportional to ~~the a~~ number of objects linked to ~~that the target~~ Internet object.

7. (Currently Amended) The inferred relation weighting process of claim 2, further comprising:

an outgoing link analysis process for determining ~~the a~~ number of objects that each ~~of said plurality of Internet objects object~~ is linked to, wherein ~~the an~~ outgoing link value of ~~each said a target~~ Internet object is ~~directly~~ proportional to ~~the a~~ number of objects ~~that said to which~~ ~~the target~~ Internet object is linked to.

8. (Currently Amended) The inferred relation weighting process of claim 2, wherein ~~said the~~ inferred relation weight calculation process ~~includes comprises~~ a known relation recalculation process for redefining ~~the values of the strength corresponding to strengths of each said~~ discrete link ~~links~~ and to the ~~first and second strengths strength of said at least a first link and said at least a second link~~ in response to the calculation of ~~said the~~ strength of ~~said the~~ inferred relation.

9. (Currently Amended) The inferred relation weighting process of claim 1, wherein at least one of ~~said the~~ Internet objects ~~is comprises~~ a transaction record.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The inferred relation weighting process of claim 1, wherein at least one of said the Internet objects is comprises an Internet document.

12. (Currently Amended) The inferred relation weighting process of claim 1, wherein said the strength of said the inferred relation is corresponds to a relevance score.

13. (Currently Amended) The inferred relation weighting process of claim 9, wherein said the relevance score is comprises a percentage.

14. (Currently Amended) An inferred relation weighting process for determining a the strength of an inferred relation between a first Internet object and a second Internet object, where the first and second Internet objects which are not directly linked, comprising:

a first link weighting process for determining the a first strength of at least a first link between said the first non directly linked Internet object and a plurality of common objects;

a second link weighting process for determining the a second strength of at least a second link between said the second non directly linked Internet object and said the plurality of common objects[[;]], wherein said the plurality of common objects comprises a first common object

connected to said the first link[[;]], a second common object connected to said the second link,

and an intermediate link ~~interconnecting said between the~~ first and second common objects;

an intermediate link weighting process for determining ~~the a~~ strength of said the intermediate link; and

an inferred relation weight calculation process for calculating the strength of said the inferred relation based on the first strength, the second strength of said at least a first link, said at least a second link, and said the strength of the intermediate link;

wherein the first Internet object comprises a query for retrieving a document and the second Internet object comprises a document.

15. (Currently Amended) The inferred relation weighting process of claim 14, further comprising:

a link limitation process for specifying a link limit concerning ~~the a~~ maximum number of links used to determine the inferred relation allowed to connect said first and second non directly linked Internet objects.

16. (Currently Amended) The inferred relation weighting process of claim 14, wherein said the plurality of common objects includes comprises at least one Internet document.

17. (Currently Amended) The inferred relation weighting process of claim 14, wherein said the intermediate link comprises at least one additional common object and a plurality of sub-

links for connecting ~~said~~ the at least one additional common object to ~~said~~ the first and second common objects[[],]; and

wherein ~~said~~ the intermediate link weighting process determines the strength of ~~said~~ the intermediate link based on ~~the~~ individual strengths of ~~said~~ the sub-links.

18. (Currently Amended) The inferred relation weighting process of claim 17, further comprising:

an incoming link analysis process for determining ~~the~~ a number of objects linked to each ~~of~~ said plurality of Internet object and objects and each said common object, wherein an the incoming link value of ~~each~~ said Internet a target object and ~~each~~ said common object is directly proportional to ~~the~~ number of objects linked to that the target object.

19. (Currently Amended) The inferred relation weighting process of claim 17, further comprising:

an outgoing link analysis process for determining ~~the~~ a number of objects that each ~~of~~ said plurality of Internet objects object and ~~each~~ said common object is linked to, wherein an the outgoing link value of ~~each~~ said Internet a target object and ~~each~~ said common object is directly proportional to ~~the~~ a number of objects ~~that~~ said to which the target object is linked to.

20. (Currently Amended) The inferred relation weighting process of claim 17, wherein ~~said~~ the inferred relation weight calculation process includes comprises a known relation

recalculation process for redefining the values corresponding to strengths of the sub-links and to the first and second strengths of the strength of each said sub-link and the strength of said at least a first link and said at least a second link in response to the calculation of said the strength of said the inferred relation.

21. (Currently Amended) The inferred relation weighting process of claim 14, wherein at least one of said the Internet objects is comprises a transaction record.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) The inferred relation weighting process of claim 14, wherein at least one of said the Internet objects is comprises an Internet document.

24. (Currently Amended) The inferred relation weighting process of claim 14, wherein said the strength of said the inferred relation is corresponds to a relevance score.

25. (Currently Amended) The inferred relation weighting process of claim 24, wherein said the relevance score is comprises a percentage.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for determining ~~the a~~ strength of an inferred relation between a first Internet object and a second Internet object, ~~which where the first and second Internet objects~~ are not directly linked, the method comprising:

determining ~~the a~~ first strength of ~~at least~~ a first link between the first ~~non~~ directly linked Internet object and a common object;

determining ~~the a~~ second strength of ~~at least~~ a second link between the second ~~non~~ directly linked Internet object and the common object; and

calculating ~~the a~~ strength of the inferred relation based on the first strength and the second strength; ~~of the at least a first link and the at least a second link~~

wherein the first Internet object comprises a query for retrieving a document and the second Internet object comprises a document.

27. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for determining the strength of an inferred~~ relation of claim 26, wherein the common object comprises a plurality of ~~discrete~~ Internet objects, the plurality of Internet objects being connected via discrete links each interconnected with a discrete link, and the plurality of discrete Internet objects and links connect the first and second links, wherein determining the strength of the inferred relation further comprises:

determining ~~the a~~ strength of each discrete link, wherein the strength of the inferred relation is based also on ~~the a~~ strength of each discrete link ~~and the strength of~~ ~~the at least a first link and the at least a second link.~~

28. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for determining the strength of an inferred relation~~ of claim 27, further comprising:

specifying a link limit concerning ~~the~~ a maximum number of links used to determine the inferred relation allowed to connect the first and second non-directly linked Internet objects.

29. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer program product residing on a computer machine-readable medium having~~ for storing a plurality of instructions for implementing an inferred relation weighting process, the inferred relation weighting process for determining a strength of an inferred relation between a first Internet object and a second Internet object, where the first and second Internet objects are not directly linked, wherein the instructions stored thereon which, when executed by ~~a~~ the processor, cause ~~that~~ the processor to:

determine ~~the~~ a first strength of at least a first link between the first ~~non-directly linked~~ Internet object and a common object;

determine ~~the~~ a second strength of at least a second link between the second ~~non-directly linked~~ Internet object and the common object; and

calculate the strength of the inferred relation based on the first strength and the second strength; of the at least a first link and the at least a second link

wherein the first Internet object comprises a query for retrieving a document and the second Internet object comprises a document.

30. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer program product~~ machine-readable medium of claim 29, wherein ~~said the computer~~ machine-readable medium ~~is comprises~~ a random access memory (RAM).

31. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer program product~~ machine-readable medium of claim 29, wherein ~~said the computer~~ machine-readable medium ~~is comprises~~ a read only memory (ROM).

32. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer program product~~ machine-readable medium of claim 29, wherein ~~said the computer~~ machine-readable medium ~~is comprises~~ a hard disk drive.

33. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for executing an inferred relation weighting process for determining a strength of an inferred relation between a first Internet object and a second Internet object, where the first and second Internet objects are not directly linked, the apparatus comprising:

~~a processor and memory to store instructions that are executable; and configured to:~~
~~at least one processing device to execute the instructions to:~~

~~determine the a first strength of at least a first link between the first non-directly linked Internet object and a common object;~~

~~determine the a second strength of at least a second link between the second non-directly linked Internet object and the common object; and~~

calculate ~~the~~ strength of the inferred relation based on the first strength and the second strength of the at least a first link and the at least a second link;
wherein the first Internet object comprises a query for retrieving a document and
the second Internet object comprises a document.

34. (Currently Amended) The ~~processor and memory apparatus~~ of claim 33, wherein
~~said~~ the processor and memory are incorporated into a personal computer.

35. (Currently Amended) The ~~processor and memory apparatus~~ of claim 33, wherein
~~said~~ the processor and memory are incorporated into a network server.

36. (Currently Amended) The ~~processor and memory apparatus~~ of claim 33, wherein
~~said~~ the processor and memory are incorporated into a single board computer.